



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND**

# MAKWENZEKE

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## PROVINCIAL MINILIB LAUNCH

After months of planning and many miles travelled by Project Co-ordinator Pumla Mahanjana, the SALB in conjunction with the Eastern Cape Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, was able to celebrate the launch of the Eastern Cape Provincial Minilib Project on 10 February 2011 at the Humansdorp Cultural Centre. The launch, which showcased the Humansdorp Public Library, was attended by MEC Mrs Xoliswa Tom and celebrated the project's success, the completion of five Minilibs which are now operational with the necessary assistive equipment and reading material.

With the support of the selected local (Kouga) municipality the SALB, DSRAC and the new members of the Minilib facility enjoyed the informative and entertaining programme, which was kicked into high gear with a colourful and energetic dance performance by the Protea Club Group. Formalities continued with an introduction to the project by Ms Pumla Mahanjana, followed by the address of Mrs Mabandla Senior Manager of Library Services DSRAC, who acknowledged her support of the EC Provincial Minilib Project and satisfaction at its successful completion. Mrs Mabandla also had an exciting announcement up her sleeve as she announced the intentions of the Library Services to continue to expand the worthwhile project at other Eastern Cape libraries in the future.

In order to provide the honorable MEC Mrs Xoliswa Tom, the attending press

and the audience with a better understanding of the tools that the Minilibs have been equipped with, demonstrations were given by new Humansdorp Minilib members. Mr Joseph Hlela showed the audience how much he enjoys listening to Xhosa poetry by playing a snippet of a poem on his Victor Reader, as well as demonstrating how he keeps up to date with his favourite Magazine titles, using a document reader. The specialized JAWS computer software was demonstrated by Mr Marthinus Pietersen, as he navigated the desktop and a Microsoft Word document on a Minilib computer.

The programme continued with the honorable MEC Mrs Xoliswa Tom acknowledging the value of the project for the visually impaired community. She also emphasized the opportunities created by a project like this and encouraged visually disabled people to use the Minilib facility.



*MEC Xoliswa Tom enjoying a cultural item by the Rainbow School*



*TOP: Joseph Hlela demonstrating a DAISY book on the Victor reader and document reader*



*BOTTOM: Mr Marthinus Pietersen demonstrating JAWS Software*

**Louise Wolmarans**

# DIRECTOR'S COMMUNIQUÉ



## The responsibility to try...

There is a story of three shoemakers with their shops all in one street. To attract business the one shoemaker decided to put up a banner with the words: "The best shoemaker in the Country." The second shoemaker saw this and decided to respond to this challenge by putting up a banner saying: "The best shoemaker in the World." The third shoemaker saw all this competition going on and put up his banner stating: "The best shoemaker in this Street."

I guess there are many ways one could interpret this little story, but I think for the South African Library for the Blind the message is simply that we should deliver services and products that would satisfy our members. We cannot do this if we do not try new things and continue to do the things that keep members satisfied. It is also of no use to boast that we are the best in the world if we are not satisfying our local market. As they say: "Charity begins at home". The other side of the coin is also true and that is the Library does not operate on its own. We are interdependent on a number of individuals and organisations to enable us to render the services we are responsible for.

In order to try to improve our services and the reading choices for our members, we have to try a variety of options. Some of these endeavours may yield very little and others may yield more than what we may expect. One of the main functions of this Library is to provide for the information and reading needs of our members. We mostly acquire printed material published locally or internationally. This printed material is then converted into braille and/or audio and made available. The conversion process is a very time-consuming process due to having to obtain copyright permission from the publishers or authors. Once permission is obtained, we may proceed with the production process. These legal requirements and limitations created problems for organisations similar to the Library all around the world. The problem is that several organisations around the world produce the same titles. In some instances the same title is produced seven times by seven different countries. This is a waste of resources and time which could have been better utilised if one organisation produced the title and made it available to similar organisations around the world.

Based on the above realization, several organisations around the world, including the

Library, developed the Global Library for the Blind concept to address these duplications, sharing of files, information, etc. This project merged with an initiative of the World Intellectual Property Organization to become the **TIGAR** project. The Library is part of this project in association with others as well as the International Publishers Organisations to develop a mechanism that would allow the international exchange of book files within a legally accepted framework that would satisfy all involved. One of the outcomes would be access to publisher files in order to make reading material available quicker. It would reduce, if not eliminate duplication of production processes and it would mean access to more titles than we would ever be able to acquire on our own. There are various issues to resolve in order to make this a working model such as technical, political, business rights issues, etc.

The Library is part of this initiative because we cannot fail to try. We are also in it to improve and expand the services and choices we offer to our members. Although the Library may be very active on an international level to work out options, we still try to be the best Library in the local streets!

## PJ & RAPPORTRYERS FUN RUN



On Thursday 28 October 2010 over 400 parents, scholars and Grahamstonians took to the streets to brave the town's steepest hill - all in the name of fun!!!

This annual event has evolved into the town's must jovial annual run, despite its testing route. Every year regardless of the weather, as this year proved, the runners could not be discouraged and spirits could not be dampened. The event appears to bring about great camaraderie between the schools, with Matric teams or prefect bodies tying themselves together and competing in big groups for the most eccentric outfit instead of the best times.

Organised by the Grahamstown Rapportryers and PJ Olivier Hoërskool, every year the proceeds of this 5 km Fun Run / Walk are donated to a worthy cause and this year the SALB was the very grateful recipient. Eager to contribute to the event, the SALB agreed to give the first 400 entrants a free SALB T-shirt. As eager participants flocked to the registration table and then on to the SALB table, it wasn't long before the 400 T-shirts had run out.



The race went well with quick finishing times despite the monstrous hill which lead to the finish line. The first man finished in just over 15 minutes, with the first lady in tow only minutes later. Runners soon started streaming in, still in high spirits and school groups only fading as they climbed the hill, but with enough energy to cheer and sing when crossing the finish line. The first one hundred finishers all received commemorative medals, while spot prizes were flowing freely.

The event was a great success and we look forward to next year's race when hopefully even more of the SALB staff will be fit to participate. In the meantime, Library will put the generous donation to good use.

Louise Wolmarans

## 2010 YEAR END FUNCTION

2010 was a busy year for the SALB, improving and re-launching its website, getting caught up in World Cup Soccer fever and establishing 5 new Minilibs across the Eastern Cape, none of which would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the SALB staff. To celebrate all that was achieved in 2010 and to thank everyone for a job well done, the Library staff enjoyed a sunny afternoon away from the office.



On Friday 10 December, you may have noticed the Library closed its doors a little early, as the staff set off for the gardens of Café Blanca where a delicious spitbraai and salads were waiting. The formalities were brief as the Director, Francois Hendrikz, welcomed and thanked the staff as well as presented a number of special awards.

The awards for "Employee of the Year" and "Manager of the Year" as voted by the staff were presented to Hester Plaatjies, Library Assistant, and Ria Greaves, Head of the Circulation section, respectively. The Director's awards for "Mr SALB" & "Ms SALB" went to Thembile Gxekwa and Nobesuthu Lose. On a more serious note, Hester Plaatjies was also awarded a certificate for 25 years service to the Library. She was wished farewell as she proceeded on to retirement at the end of 2010.



## TALKING BOOKS .....

Title: House of Stone  
 Author: Christina Lamb  
 Accession No: DA 3120  
 Narrator: Jane Osbourne  
 Category: Biography

A powerful and intensely human insight into the civil war in Zimbabwe, focusing on a white farmer and his maid who find themselves on opposing sides. In 2000, after Robert Mugabe had launched his controversial land reform programme, Nigel Hough held on to a fervent hope that he might keep hold of his ostrich farm. A few months later, however, his family residence and livelihood were violently seized by veterans - and to his shock saw his former maid Akwe at their head. By tracing the intertwining lives of Nigel and Akwe - rich and poor, white and black, master and maid - Christina Lamb presents both sides of the Zimbabwean dilemma.

A terrifying book about the Zimbabwean government. Thank goodness I got out in time.

Reviewed by Dave Addison

Title: Eat, pray, love  
 Author: Elizabeth Gilbert  
 Accession No: DA2474  
 Narrator: Rebecca Houston & Jo-Anne de le Mare  
 Category: Travel

A bitter divorce and a turbulent love affair later, Elizabeth Gilbert emerges battered and bewildered and realises it is time to pursue her own journey in search of three things she has been missing - pleasure, devotion and balance. So, she travels to Rome, India, and Bali. This is a story about a woman's search for happiness.

"If a more likable writer than Gilbert is currently in print, I haven't found him or her. And I don't mean this as consolation prize, along the lines of: but she's really, really nice. I mean that Gilbert's prose is fueled by a mix of intelligence, wit and colloquial exuberance that is close to irresistible, and makes the reader only too glad to join the posse of friends and devotees who have the pleasure of listening in."

Review: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

## NEW DAISY TITLES 2010

Please note that this list serves as an indication of the latest available titles

TITLE	AUTHOR	Category	Acc No.
Birds, breasts and relatives	Gerald Durell	Biography	DA3330
A many splendored thing	Suyin Han	Biography	DA3260
Shades of difference	Padraig O'Malley	History	DA3081
The man of property	John Galsworthy	Classics	DA1057
Playing for pizza	John Grisham	Modern Fiction	DA1339
East of the mountain	David Guterson	Contemporary Fiction	DA3657

TITLE	AUTHOR	Category	Acc No.
Fruit of a poisoned tree – a true story	Antony Altbeker	True Crime	DA3246
Soos honde van die hemel	Marzane Leroux – van der Boon	Modern Fiction	DA3332
Long walk to freedom Abridged	Nelson Mandela; Chris van Wyk	Juvenile non-fiction	DA3833
Die son het vlerke	Ferdinand Deist	Religion	DA3098
Compulsion	Jonathan Kellerman	Detective	DA3404

PLEASE QUOTE THE ACCESSION NUMBER WHEN ORDERING YOUR BOOK CHOICES

## SALB UNDER CONSTRUCTION

For the past few months the Library has been undergoing a face lift; but unfortunately we have experienced some complications. Late October 2010 saw the commencement of repairs to the roof, renovations to the entrance and reception area, rejuvenation of the building's façade as well as making all entrances wheelchair friendly. Unfortunately constant rain followed by the builders Christmas shutdown period and delays by suppliers has significantly extended the 3 month period which was allocated for the project. The Library is, nevertheless, positive that it will be worth the wait!

Thank you to all our members, narrators and visitors for their patience and bearing with us through the inconvenience due to these renovations and repairs. The Library looks forward to publishing the new rejuvenated face of the SALB building and reception area in the next edition of the Makwenzeke.



## CONGRATULATIONS: 100 AUDIO TITLES



Congratulations to Jane Osborne, the SALB's most recent narrator to reach the outstanding milestone of having completed 100 audio titles. Ms Osborne became a narrator in 2001 using the analogue system and moved over to DAISY when the Library changed to the digital format.

The Library is extremely grateful to Ms Osborne for the many hours she has dedicated to make such a meaningful contribution to the SALB audio collection, as well as the joy she has brought to all the members who have experienced the fruit of her efforts.

## NEW CD MAILERS



After months of researching for the best suitable replacement for the big and bulky daisy mailers, the new and improved version has arrived. The new slim line plastic mailer is lightweight and easy to use, with a convenient pouch for the SALB address card. The mailer still boasts the Library's official colours of royal blue with white print and is comfortably able to transport a single CD. The easily resealable Velcro flap, which secures the CD inside, allows the new mailer to fit conveniently into a normal post box and members are now able to receive their desired books at their residential address.



Please feel free to provide the Library with any feedback on these new mailers - let us know whether they are easy to open and close and if the address label is secure and easy to turn around.

**Melton Kivitts**

# THE NEW SALB BOARD

The Management of the Library is proud to introduce the SALB Board, duly appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture, to serve the Library and its members from October 2010 to September 2013. A few familiar faces have been reappointed for a second term of office, namely: the Chairperson, Judge Z M Yacoob; Mr A C Keyser and Mr M L Ntshani. New members and some old SALB friends are welcomed to the Board: Ms L S Nkosi (Deputy-Chairperson); Mr Jace Nair; Mrs N N Rasmeni; Mrs E N Xanise; Adv T S Kekana and Dr P A McLaren. The Library looks forward to working with this dynamic Board for the next three years and is confident that the Board will serve the Library and its members well.



Judge ZM Yacoob



Mr AC Keyser



Mr ML Ntshani



Mr Jace Nair



Adv TS Kekana



Mrs NN Rasmeni



Mrs EN Xanise



Ms LS Nkosi



Dr PA McLaren

## DIRECTOR ELECTED TO IFLA LPD COMMITTEE...

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) invited the SALB Director, Francois Hendrikz, to serve as a member on the Standing Committee of the Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities (LPD) section for a second term from 2011–2015. This position will take Mr Hendrikz to the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico in August this year.

The LPD section works to advocate for library services which are equitable and accessible to persons with a print handicap. Currently the LPD is focused on two projects, namely, the "Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources (TIGAR)" project and the "Performance Measures for Libraries Serving Print Disabled People" project.

The IFLA LPD and DAISY Consortium have joined forces to develop TIGAR, formerly known as the Global Accessible Library Project. The objective of this project is to identify how content can be shared, collected and accessed by print disabled library users to obtain the reading material of their choice. While the objective of the "Performance Measures for Libraries Serving Print Disabled People" project is to assist libraries serving print handicapped individuals to find a common standard to measure and compare performance to encourage continuous improvement.

The staff of the Library would like to wish Mr Hendrikz and his fellow Committee members all the best for their current term of office as they strive towards achieving their goals.



# STAFF NEWS FROM THE HR DESK...

## NEW APPOINTMENTS...

The SALB would like to welcome Mr Likhaya Jodwana, who joined the Library on 1 January 2011. Mr Jodwana has been appointed on a three-month contract basis to assist with circulation in the Library Dispatch Section following the early retirement of Ms Hester Plaatjies. Prior to working at the SALB, Mr Jodwana was employed at one of the local clothing stores on a temporary basis.



## STAFF ON THE MOVE...

The close of 2010 saw the Library saying goodbye to two of its staff members as Mr Cyril Gqolodashe and Ms Hester Plaatjies both left the employ of the Library.

Mr Gqolodashe was appointed at the Library on 1 August 2005 to take up the position of Admin Assistant and was promoted to Senior Finance Officer during February 2008. We wish him well as he leaves us to further develop himself in his field of study, taking up a position at a local Accounting firm.

Ms Plaatjies was employed at the Library as a contract worker on 1 December 1984. Years of hard work paid off as in March 1996 she was appointed to the permanent position of Library Assistant in the Audio Library Section. Deciding to take early retirement after the age of 55, Ms Plaatjies looks forwards to spending some quality time with her grandchildren. We wish her well ... enjoy this time Hester!!!



## 25 YEARS LONG SERVICE...

Mrs Helen Samuel completed 25 years of loyal service to the Library on 1 January 2011. As a Senior Library Officer, Helen is responsible for seeing to the needs of members. Everyone knows Helen!!! Her always sympathetic ear, caring and friendly manner has been enjoyed and appreciated by many members over the years as the multitude of compliments received by the Library have shown.

In a tea held to celebrate this achievement, colleagues were heard to comment "Helen's vibrant personality and jovial chatter keeps the Library alive." Well done Helen ...to the next 25!!!



On 24 February 2011, Mr Michael Moodie was acknowledged for 25 years of loyal service to the Library during a special staff function to mark the occasion. Mr Moodie was appointed at the Library as a temporary worker in the Audio Library section during July 1985. On 1 February 1986 he was permanently employed in the capacity of Technical Assistant in Audio Production. During 1988 he moved to the Braille Services Section of Circulation, where he can be found today...

Michael's boyish charm, loud but caring nature, make him everyone's friend ... he is always keen and willing especially when it comes to being part of the main action when social events are held ... Michael is a passionate person in every sense of the word ... particularly when it comes to his beloved post van !!



# CIRCULATION SNIPPETS .....

We are well into 2011, the year of the rabbit and according to Chinese Astrology we can expect a quiet, positive and inspiring year, which seems to be the direction in which the SALB is heading. Here in Grahamstown the summer days are a wee bit too hot and humid, leaving us feeling a little like over keen Comrades runners, making the most of reserve energy. Despite the heat, we are as busy as ever with phone calls, letters and e-mails from our members and we look forward to this year of positivity and hope that you will enjoy the titles you receive this year and that they will inspire and entertain you. Thank you to all our members for a marvelous 2010 — the SALB would like to wish you all a good 2011.

## MP3 FORMAT DISKS

The SALB has recently purchased a number of new Blackstone audio books. The Library is very excited about the expansion of its audio collection but there are a few details to bear in mind when enjoying these MP3 format disks. Your Daisy player does recognize this new format and will tell you that a new book has been inserted, but will then stop. Please simply press the Play button once for the disk to continue playing. Unfortunately, the SALB is not permitted to make copies of these books and as such we request that our members please take extra care with the books and return them within 21 days. A list of these new titles will be available soon.

## DAMAGED DISCS

We kindly request members to put a letter in the mailer if a Daisy book gets permanently damaged. A fine of R50 will be charged if we receive a damaged Daisy book without an explanatory note.

## NEW BOOKS LISTS

If you would like to receive regular updates of new books on Daisy through e-mail contact: [ria.greaves@salb.org.za](mailto:ria.greaves@salb.org.za) or [helen.samuel@salb.org.za](mailto:helen.samuel@salb.org.za)

## MEET A MEMBER

Our member of this edition is Pastor Abraham Tshabalala from Vosloorus, Gauteng. As Abraham is a minister, he reads only spiritual and religious books to get ideas and messages for his sermons. Abraham is a Zionist minister, but preaches to many denominations such as Anglican, Wesleyan and Ethiopian Church, the Assemblies of God and the Lion of Juda. He also held sermons on the radio on Kasfie FM. This amazing member is also active in the local hospital, old age home, prison and police. To do this wonderful work he mainly uses the Interlibrary Loan Service at the Library and is very grateful to our staff, especially Nobesuthu Lose, who often assists him. Pastor Tshabalala lost his sight due to glaucoma in the late nineties. Unfortunately he was unable to learn braille as he found the present edition of Six Dots too time-consuming, but he will try again when the new edition becomes available. When asked about hobbies he said the Church and all its activities were his hobby, but classical music also had a special place in his heart. Pastor Tshabalala is married with three children in their twenties — all in the teaching profession.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

We are always looking for book reviews and recommendations. Please send your reviews to Helen at [helen.samuel@salb.org.za](mailto:helen.samuel@salb.org.za) when you have enjoyed a book and would like to recommend it to other members.

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